759 Tel: (902) 652 - 2893



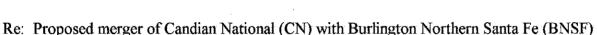
Fax: (902) 652 - 2321

Georgetown Timber

P.O. Box 130 Georgetown, Prince Edward Island COA 1L0

February 23, 2000

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary Surface Transportation Board Office of the Secretary Case Control Unit Attn: STB Ex Parte No. 582 1925 K Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20423-0001



Dear Sir:

The purpose of this letter is to comment on the issues to be discussed on March 8th, 2000 in Ex Parte 582.

Georgetown Timber Ltd. is a manufacturer and distributor of lumber products using rail service in the US and Canada. We have no objection to the proposed merger between Canadian National (CN) and Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF), inasmuch as this does not create a disruption in our present service or rates but rather an improvement. We would even welcome the opportunities to expand our own market.

We encourage the Surface Transportation Board to focus on whether the proposed CN-BNSF combination is good for shippers, not on potential downstream effects. The CN-BNSF combination should be judged on its merits and if other carriers propose mergers, then these cases ought to be evaluated on their merits.

Sincerely,

M. Léandre Cormier

President

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